

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /082 W  
----- 023277 /10

R 151505Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8548  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1731

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, ECON, IS, JO  
SUBJ: VIEWS OF THE "KING'S MAN" IN EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK

1. SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 14 CALL ON ANWAR KHATIB, HE BRIEFED DPO DRUSE AND ME ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO AMMAN WHERE HE APPEALED TO HUSSEIN FOR RENEWED ASSISTANCE TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES, COMMENTED ON WEST AND EAST BANK POLITICAL TRENDS, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF WEST BANKERS AND ARABS IN GENERAL CONCERNING RAPID PROGRESS TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON ANWAR KHATIB DEC 14 TO INTRODUCE DPO KRUSE AND HE BRIEFED ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO AMMAN. (KHATIB IS FORMER GOVERNOR OF JERUSALEM IN JORDANIAN TIMES AND IS THE "KING'S MAN" IN EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK)

3. KHATIB SAID PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO URGE HUSSEIN TO RESUME DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES. (KHATIB CLAIMS HKJ CURRENTLY SPENDS JD 6 MILLION ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIANS ON BOTH EAST AND WEST BANK AND JD 13 MILLION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS SALAREIS ON WEST BANK.) HE SAYS HE URGED  
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THIS BE DONE IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL

MAYORS. FINALLY, HUSSEIN AGREED TO CONSIDER PROJECTS IF INDIVIDUAL MAYORS CAME TO AMMAN AND PRESENTED THEM.

4. I ASKED ABOUT QAWASMI OF HEBRON WHO EARLIER HAD MADE MUCH PUBLICIZED TRIP BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANYTHING. KHATIB LOOKED UNCOMFORTABLE AND ASSERTED HEBRON WOULD RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.

5. HE NOTED CHRONIC FINANCIAL STRAITS OF JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND COMPLAINED THAT ARAB STATES WERE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO ASSIST HKJ.

6. KHATIB OBSERVED THE NEW GOVERNMENT CONTAINED ABOUT FIVE EAST BANK FIRSTERS WHO OPPOSED THE HIRING AND PROMOTION OF PALESTINIANS AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ANY ELECTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE HELD. THIS GROUP WAS WILLING TO FORGET ABOUT THE WEST BANK. FORTUNATELY, NEITHER HUSSEIN NOR PM BADRAN WERE OF THIS MIND, ALTHOUGH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WAS.

7. KHATIB STRESSED THAT CURRENT LEADERS OF CONFRONTATION STATES AND PLO WERE MODERATES AND THAT UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY EXISTED FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT WHICH MUST BE EXPLOITED SOON. AT SAME TIME, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS HAD BEEN AROUSED AMONG WEST BANK PALESTINIANS AND IN NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH, IF UNFULFILLED, WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US AND CURRENT ARAB LEADERS.

8. ALTHOUGH WEST BANKERS VOCALLY SUPPORT PLO, KHATIB MAINTAINED THAT SILENT MAJORITY WAS FOR ASSOCIATION OF A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE WITH JORDAN. NEITHER KING NOR WEST BANKERS COULD GO AGAINST RABAT DECISION BUT RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL TOWARD HUSSEIN REMAINED WHICH COULD BE TAPPED.

9. KHATIB SAID HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY ASSAD TO GO TO DAMASCUS ON TWO OCCASIONS BUT AS LONG AS FIGHTING WAS GOING ON IN LEBANON HE FELT IT IMPROPER TO GO.

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10. KHATIB SAID PALESTINIANS UNDERSTOOD US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE ISRAEL TO SURVIVE. HOWEVER, HE WAS BITTER OVER WHAT HE ALLEGED WAS US ASSISTANCE WHICH PERMITTED ISRAELIS TO BUILD AND EXPAND SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ISRAELIS WERE NOW EXPANDING IN VICINITY BETHLEHEM (BEIT JALA). ON OTHER HAND, HE HAD NOTICE A DIMUTION OF ISRAELI LAND PURCHASES IN EAST JERUSALEM.

1. COMMENT: NOT SURPRISINGLY, KHATIB PLEADED HUSSEIN'S CASE. AS DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEES AWARE, HUSSEIN HAS VERY LITTLE SUPPORT IN EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK AND SUCH AS EXISTS IS LARGELY CONFINED TO FORMER HIGH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS SUCH AS KHATIB. WE AGREE WITH HIS ASSESSMENT THAT SADAT'S PEACE OFFENSIVE AND ECHOES THAT IT HAS FOUND IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE HAVE CREATED FEELING OF EXPECTATION AMONG WEST BANK PALESTINIANS THAT PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT IS LIKELY IN 1977.  
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